

## Control Room

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Jehane Noujaim (2003) *Control Room* (DVD)

*Control room* is a rare film that is both timely and timeless: timeless because it explores the ancient and complex relationship between the western and Arab worlds, timely because it reveals how satellite television has changed the way wars are reported- from news providers, driven by the patriotism of their audiences, to army information officers, driven by military objectives.

*Control Room* is a seminal documentary that explores how truth is gathered, presented, and ultimately created by those who deliver it.

Startling and powerful, *Control Room* is a documentary about the Arab television network Al-Jazeera's coverage of the U.S.-led Iraqi war, and conflicts that arose in managed perceptions of truth between that news media outlet and the American military. Egyptian-American filmmaker Jehane Noujaim (Startup.com) catches the frantic action at Al-Jazeera headquarters as President Bush stipulates his 48-hour, get-out-of-town warning to Saddam Hussein and sons, soon followed by the network's shocking footage of Iraqi civilians terrorized and killed by invading U.S. troops. Al-Jazeera's determination to show images and report details outside the Pentagon's carefully controlled information flow draws the wrath of American officials, who accuse it of being an al-Qaida propagandist. (The killing of an Al-Jazeera reporter in what appears to be a deliberately targeted air strike is horrifying.) Most fascinating is the way

*Control Room*

allows well-meaning, Western-educated, pro-democratic Arabs an opportunity to express views on Iraq as they see it--in an international context, and in a way most Americans never hear about.

--Tom Keogh (From Amazon.com)